In the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for distributed device identifier number assignment and device counting in a serially connected chain of devices, comprising:

initializing a first and a second memory locations both to a value that is equal to a maximum allowed number of devices in the serially connected chain;

receiving a first sequence of received pulses;

determining a unique device identifier based upon the first sequence received of pulses;

transmitting a first sequence of transmitted pulses;

receiving a second sequence of received pulses;

transmitting a second sequence of transmitted pulses; and

determining a total device count based upon the first and second sequences of received pulses.

2 and 3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein the determining a unique device identifier step comprises:

counting a number of pulses in the first sequence of received pulses; and

subtracting the number of pulses from the value stored in the first memory location.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the unique device identifier is stored back to the first memory location.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein the determining a total device count comprises:

counting the number of pulses in the second sequence of received pulses;

subtracting the number of pulses from the value stored in the second memory location to obtain a difference; and

adding the value stored in the first memory location and the difference.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising incrementing the result of adding the value stored in the first memory location and the difference by one (1.0).

8. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A method ~~of claim 1, wherein~~ for distributed device identifier number assignment and device counting in a serially connected chain of devices, comprising:

receiving a first sequence of received pulses;

determining a unique device identifier based upon the first sequence received of pulses;

transmitting a first sequence of transmitted pulses, the first sequence of transmitted pulses ~~is~~ being a sequence of pulses with one pulse less than the number of pulses in the first sequence of received pulses;

receiving a second sequence of received pulses;

transmitting a second sequence of transmitted pulses; and

determining a total device count based upon the first and second sequences of received pulses.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A method ~~of claim 1, wherein~~ for distributed device identifier number assignment and device counting in a serially connected chain of devices, comprising:

receiving a first sequence of received pulses;

determining a unique device identifier based upon the first sequence received of pulses;

transmitting a first sequence of transmitted pulses;

receiving a second sequence of received pulses;

transmitting a second sequence of transmitted pulses, the second sequence of transmitted pulses ~~is~~ being a sequence of pulses with one pulse less than the number of pulses in the second sequence of received pulses; and

determining a total device count based upon the first and second sequences of received pulses.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving first received sequence and the transmitting first transmitted sequence are received and transmitted over different input/output connections.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving second received sequence and the transmitting second transmitted sequence are received and transmitted over different input/output connections.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A method ~~of claim 1, wherein~~ for distributed device identifier number assignment and device counting in a serially connected chain of devices, comprising:

receiving a first sequence of received pulses;

determining a unique device identifier based upon the first sequence received of pulses;

transmitting a first sequence of transmitted pulses;

receiving a second sequence of received pulses;

transmitting a second sequence of transmitted pulses;

determining a total device count based upon the first and second sequences of received pulses; and

the steps of receiving first received sequence and transmitting second transmitted sequence are received and transmitted over the same input/output connection.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A method ~~of claim 1, wherein~~ for distributed device identifier number assignment and device counting in a serially connected chain of devices, comprising:

receiving a first sequence of received pulses;

determining a unique device identifier based upon the first sequence received of pulses;

transmitting a first sequence of transmitted pulses;

receiving a second sequence of received pulses;

transmitting a second sequence of transmitted pulses;

determining a total device count based upon the first and second sequences of received pulses; and

the steps of transmitting first transmitted sequence and receiving second received sequence are received and transmitted over the same input/output connection.

14. (Currently Amended) A semiconductor device comprising:

a counter, coupled to an input/output node, the counter for counting a number of pulses in a sequence of pulses received at the input/output node;

a first storage location to store a first count result; ~~and~~

a pulse generator, for generating a specified length sequence of pulses, the specified length being one less than the number of pulses in the sequence of pulses received at the input/output node; and

wherein the semiconductor device uses the first count result as a device identifier.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) The semiconductor device of claim 14, wherein a second sequence of pulses is received at a second input/output node.

17. (Original) The semiconductor device of claim 16, further comprising a second storage location to store a second count result.

18. (Original) The semiconductor device of claim 17, wherein the first and second count results are combined to provide information on a total number of devices in a system that includes the semiconductor device.

19. (Original) The semiconductor device of claim 14, further comprising a controller, coupled to the first storage location, the counter and the pulse generator, the controller controlling the operation of the counter and the pulse generator.

20. (Original) The semiconductor device of claim 19, wherein the controller is a microcontroller.

21. (Original) The semiconductor device of claim 19, wherein the controller is a microprocessor.

22. (Original) The semiconductor device of claim 19, wherein the controller is a finite state machine.

23. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a processor, coupled to a sequence of least one codec, adapted to processing digital data;

a controller, coupled to the sequence of at least one codec, adapted to controlling communications between the processor and the sequence of at least one codec;

the sequence of at least one codec, each codec comprising:

a port coupled to the processor and the controller; and

a semiconductor device for distributed device identifier number assignment and device counting coupled to the port, the semiconductor device comprising:

a counter, coupled to an input/output node, the counter for counting a number of pulses in a sequence of pulses received at the input/output node;

a first storage location to store a first count result; and

a pulse generator, for generating a specified length sequence of pulses, the specified length being one less than the number of pulses in the sequence of pulses received at the input/output node.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A system ~~of claim 23,~~ comprising:

a processor, coupled to a sequence of least one codec, adapted to processing digital data;

a controller, coupled to the sequence of at least one codec, adapted to controlling communications between the processor and the sequence of at least one codec;

the sequence of at least one codec, each codec comprising:

a port coupled to the processor and the controller; and

a semiconductor device for distributed device identifier number assignment and device counting coupled to the port; and

wherein a FSD signal line of a final codec in the sequence of at least one codec is connected to an external pulse generator.

26. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the semiconductor device operates each time the system is reset.

27. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the semiconductor device operates each time the system is powered-up.

28 to 47. (Canceled)

48. (New) The system of claim 25, wherein the semiconductor device operates each time the system is reset.

49. (New) The system of claim 25, wherein the semiconductor device operates each time the system is powered-up.